

# Pictures of "Drippy" – Jay Riensche, 30 Nov 2005

Email: 2/10/2016

Sir,

I am sorry for your loss. I worked with your son at Kirtland from 2004-2007 and in Germany from 2008-2012. I also had the privilege of flying with him on multiple occasions. He was a good man.

I used to take a lot of pictures and made an effort to sort through my files and find what I had of Drippy. You will find those at the attachment.

V/r,

Jay Riensche

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Email: 2/11/2016

Jay: Thank you very much for your note and photos of Doug. I would like to add them to the on-line memorial I am working on for Doug.

I received all nine photos - since you worked with Doug at both Kirtland and Germany, could you identify them as to date and place? Were these all taken about the same date, perhaps a pre-flight inspection?

And could you let me know in what capacity you worked and flew with Doug?

Thanks again,

- Mike Blackledge

[mike@blackledge.com](mailto:mike@blackledge.com)

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[mike.blackledge.com/Douglas.html](http://mike.blackledge.com/Douglas.html)

Email: 2/11/2016

Sir,

You are correct, the photos were taken on a single day (30 Nov 2005) during preflight operations at Kirtland AFB. At that time, Maj Blackledge was assigned to the 58<sup>th</sup> TRS (Training Squadron) as the program manager for HH-60 training.

I was charged with building a slide show for the upcoming 2005 Squadron Christmas party and tried to capture pictures of all personnel assigned to the unit at that time. While the party was for the 512<sup>th</sup> Rescue Squadron, personnel like Drippy were what we called "attached". Meaning that they

were assigned elsewhere but flew with the 512<sup>th</sup>. The photos show Drippy providing oversight/instruction to students during the standard pilot preflight/walk around prior to flight operations.

As for the capacity I worked and flew with Drippy: I arrived at Kirtland in 2004 from Moody AFB and was assigned to the scheduling office at the 512<sup>th</sup> Rescue Squadron. At that time Maj Blackledge was the Officer in Charge of Student Operations which consisted of Scheduling, Student and Student Management. He was assigned to the 58<sup>th</sup> TRS a short time later however as one of the schedulers I interacted with him weekly in order to schedule him for flight operations.

As a HH-60 Flight Engineer I also flew with him on multiple occasions. I recall that he had a house in the East Mountains near Cedro Peak and at every opportunity he would fly by the house. He would often build the flyby into the training scenario by telling students that they were searching for a lady and her dog at coordinates in the vicinity of the house. The "lady" was Robin out walking the dog and the students would set up a search pattern and surprisingly find her walking along the forest road, fun times...

I believe Drippy left for Germany in 2007, I really don't recall, however I met back up with him when I was assigned to Ramstein as the USAFE HH-60 Flight Engineer Command Evaluator in 2008. When I showed up he was "deployed" to McDill AFB in FL. Unfortunately not long after his return from McDill he and Robin ended up separating and he had a rough time adjusting. I'm sure that you're aware, but this caused some professional problems for him that caused his removal from the Standardization/Evaluation office. It took some time, but he was able to overcome the challenges and rebounded.

I believe he left Germany in 2011 for Florida. We remained friends on Facebook and would chat periodically but we did not have any communication outside of that.

I hope that this helps fills in any questions that you might have. Again, I'm sorry for your loss.

Mark "Jay" Riensche

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Email: 2/11/2016

Jay - excellent information, I appreciate all of it.

I plan to add your photos to the Memorial page, and I'd like to include your profile picture and some of your words. Once I get it up there, I'll drop you a note, and anything you want changed, just let me know.

Thanks again so much,

- Mike Blackledge  
[mike@blackledge.com](mailto:mike@blackledge.com)

Email: 2/12/2016

Sir,

Feel free to use my words on the memorial page. When you say "profile picture" which are you referring to? The yahoo pic? That is quite old and yahoo will not let me change so please do not use that one. I've attached an updated picture as well as a few others that you might like.

I play around with graphics and pictures as a hobby and if there is anything that I could do to help please let me know.

V/r,

Jay Riensche

Email: 2/12/2016

Jay: Great, will do!

We plan to do a Memorial Reception for Doug at my home in Albuquerque on a Saturday (yet to be determined) and interment of his ashes at Santa Fe National Cemetery with Military Honors (perhaps on the Friday before the Saturday). Doug's brother David may be putting together a Facebook page, or a web page, or/and an Evite for those occasions, and I will point him toward you for graphics, if you don't mind -

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19 Nov 2017: Jay's photos have been saved to Google Photos as "High Quality" and Jay's email has been deleted